CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST

oll. 20, No. 52 | TORONTO 2, CANADA | April 27th, 1929

"The Thinker" as expressed by Rodin

Exhibitors, too, are Thinking today!

WILLIAM HAINES
THE DUKE STEPS OUT
has broken every week-end record at Capitol, N.Y. Smashing records all over!

GRETA GARBO
WILD ORCHIDS
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SOUND OR SILENT—THE GREATEST!

Ramon Novarro in **"THE FLYING FLEET"**
"THE BELLAMY TRIAL" (*Talking or Silent*)
"ALIAS JIMMY VALENTINE" (*Haines*)
Ramon Novarro in **"THE PAGAN"** (*He sings!*)
Lon Chaney in **"WHERE EAST IS EAST"**
Willard Mack in **"VOICE OF THE CITY"**
(*All-Talking or Silent*)
and More! More! More!

THE THINKERS!

PLENTY of thinking going on in this industry today. The future? Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer is the answer! M-G-M product, Sound or Talking or Silent, is the most reassuring note in the business. "THE BROADWAY MELODY" a national sensation. "THE TRIAL OF MARY DUGAN" Broadway's new $2 smash. "THE IDLE RICH" coming. Those three ALL-TALKING pictures are the New Era Road-Show-Size Talkies that make early Talking efforts seem amateurish by comparison. M-G-M's Movietone Acts are marvelous. Now come HAL ROACH'S great ALL-TALKING COMEDIES with "Our Gang," Laurel-Hardy, Charlie Chase and Roach All-Stars. M-G-M silent pictures are life-savers to many theatres today. The future? It's rosy when it's secure! There's one company that *insures* the future—

M-G-M

PUBLISHED BY
CANADIAN MOVING PICTURE DIGEST COMPANY LIMITED
259 SPADINA AVENUE, TORONTO 2

Remember "THE GREAT TRAIN ROBBERY"?

—*it was a swell picture in its day!*

THE BROADWAY MELODY
Talking, Singing, Dancing

With Charles King, Anita Page, Bessie Love. Directed by Harry Beaumont.

THE TRIAL OF MARY DUGAN
100% TALKING

$2 smash hit at Embassy, N. Y. Norma Shearer, Lewis Stone, H. B. Warner, Raymond Hackett. Directed by the author, Bayard Veiller.

THE IDLE RICH
100% TALKING

With Conrad Nagel, Bessie Love, Leila Hyams. From the play "White Collars" by Edith Ellis. Directed by William De Mille.

EARLIER Talking pictures
LOOK like "The Great
TRAIN Robbery" compared to
METRO-Goldwyn-Mayer's
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YOU'VE put money into
TALKING equipment!
SAFEGUARD that investment
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The Money Right Now!

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THE GREATEST STAR ON THE SCREEN

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The **TALKIES** *of the* **INDUSTRY**

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To the Motion Picture Exhibitors of Canada

This will inform you that we hold the DeForest patents for the reproduction of sound on film for the Dominion of Canada.

Any theatre or person operating or using equipment for reproducing sound on film in Canada infringing the DeForest patents without a license from the undersigned company will be proceeded against to the full extent of the law.

The only Canadian patents granted to date on devices for reproduction of sound on film are the DeForest patents which are held by the undersigned company.

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800 THEATRES

in the United States play *Educational's talking comedies.* And immediately on release in Canada they began playing the finest houses in the Dominion.

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Baiting the Public

WE HAD a young typhoon in Toronto recently. It rained not only "cats and dogs," but rocks made of ice, miniature nuggets, not worth their weight in gold, for after they hit you, you were "wet all over," and could not cash in.

The wind did its bit also, it threw you about recklessly, while the temperature noticeably lowered; and during this display of temperament on the part of Mother Nature, there was a line-up in front of the Tivoli Theatre, four deep, and all around the corner, waiting there in the rain, hail, and storm, to get in to see "Broadway Melody."

Across the street, there is a stock company, a mighty good one, in a fine theatre. This house was presenting a Broadway success; and on this night in particular, this house was only half-filled, and the manager could have consoled himself by blaming the weather, if that line-up at the Tivoli had not remained unbroken, and a patient, wet and shivering crowd, composed of people of all ages, were not waiting to get in to see and hear "Broadway Melody."

What is the answer? That the public is keenly interested in Sound pictures, as eager to see and hear them as was the public in the first days of Motion Pictures, with this added distinction, that the patronage has multiplied like unto the tables of First and Second Chronicles, First and Second Kings.

Apropos of all this ready-made patronage, which now is obliged to wait out in the cold to get in to see and hear what pleases its fancy, do producers believe that the securing of big names from the operatic, or concert stages, will increase the revenue possible for a production?

I am here referring to the engagement of certain operatic stars, who are not shining so brightly in the concert, or operatic firmament, to whom million dollar, or half million dollar salaries are to be paid. Concert singers, who have no screen technique, nor for that matter, any histrionic ability, who are especially and peculiarly suited to the concert stage only.

I can remember a Motion Picture made with Caruso (God rest his soul). The picture was a box-office failure, because the screen casts no glamour over too much avoirdupois, or other physical blemishes. Of course Caruso did not sing, but even if "Sound" pictures had been in order, I do not believe that the patrons of Motion Picture theatres would ever accept, even Caruso as "The Student Prince," although the operatic clientele might rhapsodize over his voice; and overlook age and fat.

The screen would not accept the glorious Melba as "Mimi" in "La Boheme," although she is still singing this role in such good voice as to bring tears of joy to the eyes of her listeners, tears for old and dear memories, tears that Melba is still, although around three score, young enough in voice to sing beautifully and artistically.

I should imagine that "making hay while the sun shines," might be applied in respect to "Sound" pictures, and that producers could refrain from piling on million dollar overhead on names, when the public is not in need of such bait at the present to be drawn in.

It is true that voices count. Voices that can sing and voices that can talk. The public may be somewhat indifferent to the "faking" which is going on at present, when it is so apparent that the supposed singer is not singing, the supposed speaker is not speaking, but such subterfuge will bring its reaction.

Singing and talking pictures must be sincere. The miracle of the screen must be an invention, a discovery, it must not be a substitute, nor a fraud.

But this does not mean that it is necessary for the screen to gather in the "has-beens" of the world of song at million dollar salaries, and build up a picture to suit their age, fat and personality.

Did the public look for names in "Broadway Melody"? - in "Close Harmony"? Is the public looking for names in "Show Boat"? - "Broadway"? "The play's the thing."

Ray Lewis

RAY PRESENTS

RAY LEWIS

ARTHUR HAMMERSTEIN, after viewing World Wide's first talking picture, shown at the Criterion, New York, said, "It's an exceptionally good picture." "Black Waters" was made at Hollywood and directed by Marshall Neilan.

Meanwhile the Board of Review has this to say of "Piccadilly," made by British International, at Elstree. "Entertainment value—unusual. Dramatic interest — intense, story—gripping. Acting — very fine. Photography — excellent. Technique — most resourceful. Scenic setting — realistic. General comment —This is a most expert production, vivid in character, delineation and cinematic portrayal, with a story of unusual interest. It is fine and consistent drama, and the acting of Anna May Wong and the entire cast is outstanding."

N. L. NATHANSON has always stated that his company, the Famous Players Canadian Corp., will play every British-made picture available which contains the quality of entertainment, which the patronage of his theatres has been in the habit of receiving; and which this patronage demands and expects.

Regal Films has not only imported a great number of British-made films, which received booking over the Famous Players Canadian circuit of theatres, but which were booked throughout Canada, through this exchange.

IN ADDITION to the British-made films imported and handled by Regal Films exclusively, the Famous Players Canadian theatres has presented many British productions imported by other producing and distributing units here. Not all of the British-made pictures have been shown in Famous Players Canadian theatres. This is not any more surprising than is the fact that not all of the American-made pictures are shown in these theatres either; and this includes, not only the indifferently good attractions of standard quality, but some of superior quality.

A much larger chain of theatres would be necessary to give all the good pictures "a break"; and it is absolutely vital to distributing interests that "the break" comes from Famous Players Canadian, since this organization holds the dominant theatre position in Canada, practically controlling all key centres. In order to give every distributing company in Canada a fair proportion of First Runs and bookings, the Famous would not only be obliged to double the number of theatres under its control, but no doubt run this number up to five hundred. It is a fact that there are in all about nine hundred theatres in Canada playing pictures regularly, but if you talk to distributors here, they will inform you that unless they get "a break" with Famous Players, the rest of the houses do not count. This is interesting from the standpoint that Famous Players Canadian only operate about ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY-THREE theatres, and it proves that this company has the ability to make its theatres operate profitably, sharing this prosperity with the distributors with whom this company does business. For if the Famous Players Canadian chain of theatres is more desirable and necessary than all the other theatres and circuits throughout Canada, we must conclude that doing business with Famous must be profitable and important to distributors.

WORLD WIDE, which is a British Enterprise, has evidently proved to Mr. N. L. Nathanson that it has the product which Famous Players Canadian theatres desire. The first of the World Wide releases, "Tommy Atkins," "Honeymoon Abroad," "Moulin Rouge," "Pawns of Passion," etc., have been booked over the Famous circuit throughout Ontario, and have had an excellent line-up of bookings across the Famous chain, throughout Canada.

In addition to the support which the Famous Players Canadian has given World Wide, I find World Wide pictures playing all the big independent time across Canada also. Apparently there is a reason; and since we know in show business that there can be but one reason for play dates, the answer is Entertainment Value.

WE ARE ALL waiting for "Show Boat," press and trade comments on the opening of this Universal triumph at the Globe Theatre are unanimous in extending congratulations to Carl Laemmle. It appears that this "grand, young, old showman" has had another box-office hunch which sends Universal up to the head of the class!

"Show Boat" drew what is reported "the swankiest crowd" which ever turned out to view a motion picture. It is said the picture cost nearly two millions, but following this statement is one that advertises that Universal has already cleared its investment in its bookings at key centres across the United States; and what comes in now will be "gravy."

Well, a hearty appetite for this "gravy," my good friend, Carl Laemmle. Some people are born in luck, some manage to win luck, and some deserve luck! You belong to the class that wins and deserves to win; and your organization,

(Continued on Page 8)

The Feast of the Passover

Now Being Commemorated

"THE LAST SUPPER" *by Leonardo Da Vinci*

It was painted on the walls of the chapel Maria de Gratcia in Milan. During the Napoleonic invasion of southern Italy, the chapel was used as a stable to house cavalry horses. The walls were whitewashed over, but are now being restored.

The Feast of the Passover which Jesus celebrated with His disciples, took place in the upper room of the chapel. It was after this feast that Jesus was betrayed in the Garden of Gethsemene, brought before Pontius Pilate, and the crucifixion followed the following morning.

"'The Master said, 'I would keep the Passover at that house with my disciples.'"

"And the Lord spoke unto Moses and Aaron in the land of Egypt, saying, 'Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, 'In the tenth day of this month, they shall take to them every man a lamb according to the house of their fathers, a lamb for a house — and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it in the evening.

And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are; and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you when I smite the land of Egypt."

Exodus 12—1-3-6-7-13.

John Maxwell President World Wide Likes Sound

JOHN MAXWELL, Chairman of British International and President of World Wide, one of the outstanding figures in the development of a British Film Industry, has returned to London, after a visit to America, where he was in conference with Mr. Earle Hammons, one of the directors of World Wide, "Jaydee" Williams, executive vice-president, Alexander S. Aronson, associate to J. D. Williams and European representative, and Joseph S. Skirboll, Sales Manager.

Mr. Maxwell, before leaving, stated that British International Pictures will supply World Wide Pictures with from fifteen to twenty Talking Pictures in 1929; and from twenty to twenty-five in 1930.

TWO STAGES AT ELSTREE have been converted into Sound with R.C.A. Recording equipment. The pictures will include straight dialogue, operatic, singing and dancing stories.

Mr. Maxwell when questioned in reference to the conflicting statements heard in connection with Talking Pictures in England said, "England has gone talkie. Sound installations are being made as rapidly as possible in the principal theatres. It would appear that Sound is the thing, and I believe the silent picture in a large measure will be replaced by the new medium."

"I FIRST formulated this opinion when I was in New York last August; and since then events have strengthened the conviction. The production plans of British International offer proof of our opinion on Talking Pictures."

Alexander S. Aronson has a message in "The Pioneer" which is of interest to the Industry since it covers issues which concern foreign relations in regard to product; and the many angles which have presented themselves to the Industry with the advent of Dialogue and synchronized pictures.

MR. ARONSON states, "For the selling season of 1929-30 our English producers will secure several of the Industry's biggest creative minds to make our talking pictures; famous stories, casts with personalities, directed by the world's best directorial ability—to the end that the entertainment value of imported pictures will excel those of the past.

You know that the best English speaking voice hails from the country of its origin, and we may expect the very best from England in the way of dialogue pictures.

THE "BROADWAY MELODY" and Al Jolson's singing pictures have demonstrated that music is the greatest box-office attraction of the talking film. This is especially significant for us because Europe has always given the world its greatest music.

Germany will create for us popular operettas of native origin interpreted by world-famous Viennese conductors and artists. From France and the famous Opera Comique, the singing French pictures will be most novel and entertaining.

Probably the most famous Opera Company in the world is that of La Scala in Milan, Italy, and we expect from that organization one or two operas of the kind that are popular in America.

MUSIC is international, and these singing pictures from Germany, France and Italy are bound to prove a sensation in this country.

Further, with the investitures of locale that Europe can give these productions, they will excel over domestic productions.

So, my message to you is — that we have seen the trend of the times and are profiting by it, and next season will see you supplied with pictures with individual and selling values and created on a plane that will set them in a class by themselves."

Ray Presents

(Continued from Page 6)

officers, managers, right through, appears to function with such a spirit of good-will — showmanship, that everyone in this Industry is glad to know and hear that "Universal's Show Boat" is a hit.

I love the Industry's temperamental response to a successful picture. Everybody seems to be in a holiday mood when a big hit comes along. The Trade spreads the tidings, growing enthusiastic, excited about success, as if it meant profits to the Trade individually; and perhaps in a fine analysis it does, for it inspires the Trade to repeat this success, shows the Trade what can be done; and not only retains motion picture patronage, but builds up new prestige and more fans.

A good picture is the panacea for most of the ills of our Industry. And now that we have "Show Boat," who's next and what's next?

EVER so often some clever publicity department thinks of a novel idea; and the quality of salesmanship in this kind of an idea is unequalled, its profit-making limitless. I am thinking of Warner's publicity in connection with "The Singing Fool." "Get your handkerchiefs ready, you are going to cry."

When I saw the picture, I noted that handkerchiefs were in evidence, prepared for tears, the preparation reminded me of an English Channel crossing I once had en-route for Paris. The mouth to mouth publicity was that the voyage is rough and that everybody is sea-sick. When getting on board, provisions were made. The boat was not the only vessel in evidence.

The story that "Show Boat" has already covered its expenses of nearly two million in bookings may not be publicity, but facts, it may also be facts plus publicity, in any event "nothing succeeds like success," and here's to all successful ideas, whether they are facts or fiction!

Tiffany-Stahl Productions, Inc., announce that their executive offices will be located at 729 Seventh Ave., on the sixteenth floor. Exhibitors note that this is where you will find Oscar Hanson.

FOR SALE

At a Bargain — 400 Opera Seats, Stage Scenery, Wings complete, Ropes and Pulleys, and Ticket Chopper.

W. E. MILLS,
BOX 792,
FRANKFORD, ONT.

WANTED

To lease or buy, theatre in Hamilton, Toronto, or smaller situation if good proposition. If you mean business give particulars to Box No. 8, Digest.

Elstree Studio Starts Sound

THE first two sound stages in England are now completed and went into operation last week at the Elstree studios of British International Pictures. This means that all-talking pictures will soon be flowing to America from England for distribution in the United States and Canada by World Wide Pictures.

Just before sailing for home after a conference with World Wide officials on a talking picture program for this country, John Maxwell, Chairman of British International, said that about fifteen dialogue productions would be turned out at Elstree this year, and from twenty to twenty-five next year.

THE first picture to be put into production on the sound stages was "The Informer," Liam O'Flaherty's dramatic story starring Lars Hanson and Lya de Putti, and directed by Arthur Robinson. This was followed by "Blackmail," which will introduce to America a new star in Anny Ondrea. This is a stage version of the Charles Bennet stage play directed by Alfred Hitchcock.

"THE WRECKER," an English melodramatic thriller with Joseph Stryker and Carlyle Blackwell, two Americans, playing the leads, is also being synchronized at Elstree. Word comes that E. A. Dupont is also preparing his first talker which is to be a big production with the title, players and character of the picture being carefully guarded for the time being.

SYD CHAPLIN will be the next to take the sound stages so that within the next two weeks four or five talking pictures will be in production. Chaplin's picture, called "Mumming Birds," it is understood, is a modernized elaboration of one of the two vaudeville sketches that introduced Syd and Charley Chaplin to the American variety stage with the Fred Karno English Music Hall company.

ALTOGETHER four sound stages are to be erected at Elstree. The second two are being rapidly pushed to completion and will probably be in operation within the next month. The stages are equipped with the R. C. A. recording system and will be complete in every detail.

BECAUSE of the high speed of production now prevailing at the Columbia Studios on the West Coast, Harry Cohn, vice-president in charge of production, has added Enid Hibbard and Gladys Lehman to the company's fast growing scenario department.

Both scenarists have won their fair share of fame as writers of both original stories and screen adaptations. Miss Hibbard comes to Columbia from RKO where she contributed among others the screen stories of "The Coward," "Chicago After Midnight," "Hit of the Show," and " Sally of the Scandals." Miss Lehman, formerly associated with Universal is one of the screen's best known writers of comedies.

JOSEPH SKIRBOLL was a visitor in Toronto this week; and expressed himself as satisfied with the showing World Wide is making across the U.S. and Canada. Syd. Taube "wore the smile that won't come off," for Mr. Skirboll was smiling with him; and when the "superior officer" is satisfied it's time to enjoy a smile.

14 Points For "Show Boat"

THE SUCCESS of "Show Boat" was predicted by so many prominent showmen in the Moving Picture Industry that a number of circuit houses bought the picture long before they had an opportunity to see it. They base their judgment on the exploitation angles of the picture. They are unanimous in the opinion that no other moving picture ever had so many advertising and box-office advantages as "Show Boat" has. For the purpose of recapitulating these, they have been set down here as Fourteen Points. Here they are.

1. The novel, "Show Boat," has established itself, on its own merit, as an epic of American literature, because of its colorful gripping presentation of a romantic and unusual phase of American life.
2. The story is from the pen of Edna Ferber, one of the country's most popular writers.
3. "Show Boat" became the best seller of all best sellers, holding the supreme title for sales in the literature world for two consecutive seasons. It has been translated into four foreign languages and has become popular all over the globe.
4. Florenz Ziegfeld, the most famous impresario of musical extravaganzas, adapted it for the stage.
5. As a Ziegfeld musical show, "Show Boat" is the most successful musical comedy ever offered in New York. It has played two full seasons.
6. The music and songs of the Ziegfeld "Show Boat," written by Jerome Kern and Oscar Hammerstein II, are known from coast to coast. These songs and music are sung and heard in the picture.
7. Ziegfeld's cast included such stage favorites as Helen Morgan and Jules Bledsoe. These two and others from the show sing and render their song hits by movietone in the picture.
8. Carl Laemmle, the astute creator of big pictures, outbid the entire industry for the rights to this novel and produced it as a million odllar super talking pciture.
9. The production was directed by Harry Pollard, Universal directorial ace of such big succeses as "Uncle Tom's Cabin."
10. Popular Laura La Plante and the inimitable Joseph Schildkraut, are featured as the idyllic young lovers.
11. The sterling cast of the picture includes such favorites as Otis Harlan, Emily Fitzroy, Alma Rubens, Little Jane La Verne, Jack McDonald and Neely Edwards.
12. The picture is a musical feast, with bands, calliopes, banjos, choruses, songs, the beautiful Ziegfeld music and dozens of old favorites, and negro folk songs.
13. Among the high-lights of the picture are the songs sung by Laura La Plante, beautifully sung and clearly reproduced.
14. The production is outstanding for its pictorial beauty — the picturesque river scenes, the steaming Show Boat, the moonlit waters — and for its exciting moments — the storm, the elopement, the trotting race and other emotional climaxes.

The Spotlight

MR. JIM TRAVIS

Canadian Representative, Educational.

JIM TRAVIS, Canadian Representative of Educational, was born in Liverpool.

In 1910, Mr. Travis formed the first company in Canada, the Anglo-Canadian, for the purpose of importing British pictures. The Anglo-Canadian organization was formed in conjunction with Mrs. Clarke Murray, the founder of the Imperial Daughters of the Empire. The project received little financial support from Canadian financiers, one of our leading financial men here expressing himself as willing to find plenty of money for a theatre proposition, but not any for films.

MR. TRAVIS then became manager of the Palace, Montreal, and remained as manager for a period of eighteen months. At that time the Palace was running three reels and a song, every half hour, opening at 8.30 a.m. and continuing until midnight. The admission was ten cents. Sunday shows averaged seven thousand in gross attendance.

NEXT followed the management of the Casino, Montreal, a vaudeville house, and Mr. Travis remained with this house until the lease expired, and the theatre was demolished to make room for a store.

The Tivoli, Montreal, called "The Old Nickel" was the next association. The admission was five cents. It was owned by two Greeks, but eventually the property was sold.

"THE LIFE OF CHRIST" and "Dante's Inferno," "Satan" proved box-office sufficiently to have Mr. Travis road show these pictures from coast to coast, covering a period of two years. The admission price was fifty cents.

The first big picture road show was Herb Lubin's "Atlantis" and "Quo Vadis." Mr. Travis officiated in the capacity of manager for these features during their road show schedule. Next we find this all-around showman, press agent for the Grand Opera Company, Montreal.

MR. TRAVIS was literally raised in a circus. At sixteen he was an acrobat with his father's Black Top Tent which presented pictures and vaudeville. He toured with this show for many years throughout Great Britain.

He came to Canada to do camera work for Pathe, headquarters in Paris; and his schedule was a tour around the world for this company, but striking Toronto he changed his plans and remained here.

IN 1914 he joined the Mutual as salesman, became branch manager, and then general manager. He was secretary of the first Film Board of Trade in 1918.

The next venture was with "Alf's Button" which was taken en-tour for Horsfall, who had opened an exchange in Toronto for the importation of British Films.

FAMOUS-LASKY engaged Mr. Travers to road show "Beau Geste" and "The Flag Lieutenant" followed. Educational utilized his ability in connection with "Roses of Picardy," which he took from coast to coast as special representative. His next engagement was as Western Divisional Manager for Educational, and his latest promotion to the position of General Manager for this same company.

BECOMING reminiscent "Jim" states that in 1904 there was not one motion picture theatre established in England. A. D. Thomas was England's first exhibitor. Jim Travis, Sr., was with Buffalo Bill, so we see that his son, is the son of a showman.

Prior to the coronation of King Edward VII., Mr. Travis, Sr., secured the first patent for the Kinemacolor, a three-colour film process. A company was formed to show the picture of the coronation, the Duke of Clarence-Marlborough being a member of the company. King Edward was also interested. About seventy-five theatres were lined up, including halls, and were equipped with Edison machinery for the showing of the film. Deposits were paid, but when the coronation was postponed, Mr. Travis lost his deposits and his play dates, together with such money as he had invested in the venture.

MR. TRAVIS, Sr., also took pictures of King Edward VII. during the laying of the foundation stone of the General Hospital at Liverpool. "Trooping of the Colours" of a Lancashire Regiment was part of the film. Jim Travis accompanied his father and it was at this period that King Edward VII. presented Mr. Travis, Sr., with a diamond tie-pin. Had the coronation postponement not occurred, it had been planned to tour South Africa, Germany, throughout Europe with the film, and with other films, but since the "best laid plans of mice and men aft gang aglea," the establishment of a British Film Industry was no doubt also postponed through the coronation film catastrophe.

Paramount to Produce "Here Comes the Band Wagon"

All the sounds of the circus, the roar of animals, cheers of onlookers and romance and adventures in the lives of those under the big tops, will be brought to the screen in dramatic form when Paramount presents "Here Comes the Band Wagon," purchase of which was completed today.

The story is from the prolific pen of Henry L. Gates, and was first published in magazine serial form, later proving a best seller as a book. The announcement that "Here Comes the Band Wagon" will go into production immediately at the Hollywood studios was made today by Jesse L. Lasky, who further stated that the chief role will be played by Gary Cooper. Cooper has just completed a notable characterization in support of Emil Jannings in "Betrayal" and is considered by Lasky to be ideally suited to the dramatic, romantic figure of Gates' novel.

Menaci is to be portrayed by Paul Lukas, whose work in "The Wolf of Wall Street" and other productions has won him a wide following. Lothar Mendes will direct this synchronized production for Paramount. The adaptation is the work of William Jutte, former New York dramatist, and F. Hugh Herbert has completed his continuity.

According to Paramount executives "Here Comes the Band Wagon" will be the first story of the circus to be brought to the sound screen. The action centres around two rival circuses on a western route, the clash of owners and stars providing a thrilling background for the romance of Cooper and his leading woman.

Harold Lloyd Ready With First Sound Comedy

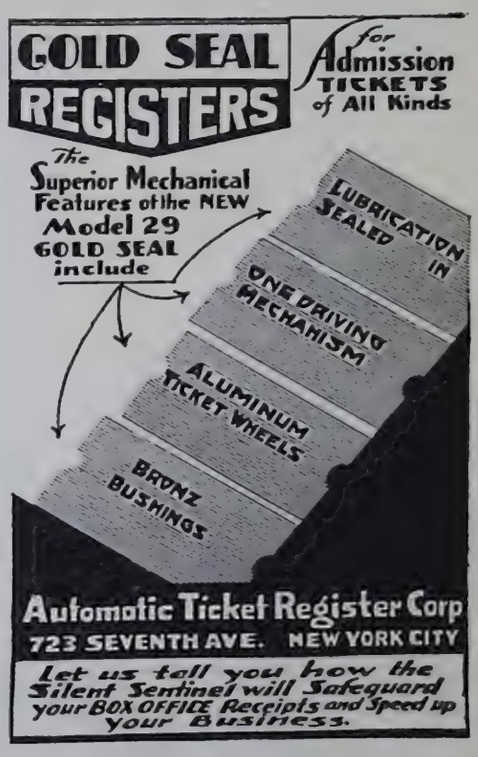
Except for a second feminine lead, who is now under consideration, Harold Lloyd has completed the casting for his initial sound and dialogue comedy with the signing by production manager John L. Murphy, of Douglas Haig, nine-year-old actor, assigned to the characterization of the lame brother of Barbara Kent in the picture which Mal St. Clair is directing. Haig is one of the leading child actors of the screen, having just given two exceptional performances in Emil Jannings' "Betrayal" and "Sins of the Fathers." He is a New Orleans lad who has been in pictures since he was three years old.

With the signing of Haig, the Lloyd cast, in addition to Miss Kent, leading lady, consists of Charles Middleton, portraying the part of the political reformer, James Wong, as an eminent Chinese physician and surgeon, Noah Young as the rookie policeman, and William Walling, as the San Francisco police captain. Middleton is the actor who created the role of Dead Legs Flint in "Kongo" and who received laudatory comment from New York critics on his work in "The Bellamy Trial."

"DAYLIGHT SAVING"

The Ottawa, Ontario, City Council has adopted Daylight Saving this year from April 27 to September 28, despite the continued objections of exhibitors.

Universal Studios announces the completion of "Points West," Hoot Gibson's latest starring vehicle. The picture is now in the cutting room.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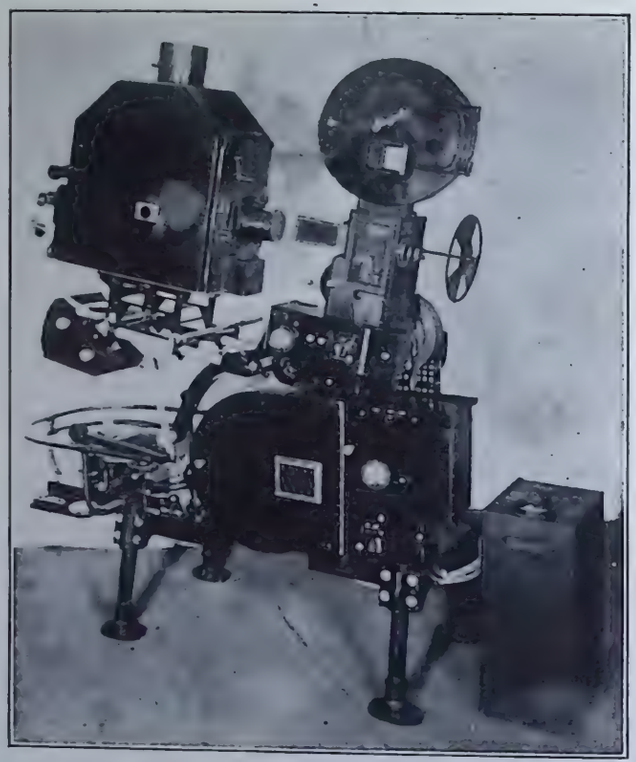

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Show Business

Two final echoes of the Laurier Palace Theatre holocaust in Montreal, Quebec, in January, 1927, have been heard in the announcements that the fateful structure had been ordered razed by the civic authorities and that the City of Montreal had paid compensation to parents and guardians of the victims to the extent of $250 for each child. As 79 children lost their lives as a result of the fire, the total compensation was $19,750. The building had not been used for any purpose since the tragedy and the ruins have been declared unsafe.

Current reports are that all records have been broken in two cities of Canada with 'Broadway Melody." This production smashed all marks at the Palace Theatre, Montreal, first wired house in Canada, with a reported gross of $30,000 for one week, while it also broke the house record of the Tivoli Theatre, Toronto, which is the first wired theatre in that city.

When Capt. J. T. Randell, famous skipper of the "I'm Alone," sunk by U. S. Coast Guard cutter, paid an official visit to Ottawa, the Canadian Capital, on April 18, announcement was made that he had become associated with Ernest Shipman, film producer, for a moving picture stunt in South America. Shipman was referred to as being "of Ottawa" but he probably has not seen Ottawa since scores of local people lost heavily in two of his production ventures, "The Man From Glengarry" and "Glengarry School Days."

Military staff officers of the Canadian Department of National Defence, Ottawa, are considering talking pictures as an instructional method in drill movements and proper words of command for the training of the Canadian Militia. For some time past, the Department has been using 11 Acme portable projectors for the presentation of silent films showing how troops are to be drilled but the Department is anxious to add the talking feature.

The theme song has now invaded the realm of commercial motion pictures. The Canada Steamship Lines, Limited, operating many passenger and freight boats on the Great Lakes and on the St. Lawrence River, has offered a cash prize for a theme song to accompany its scenic film, "Rivers of Romance." This picture was presented along with the regular bill at the Capitol Theatre, Montreal, during the week of April 21, with improvised non-synchronous music until the theme song is selected.

The National Vaudeville Artists' Fund got a big boost at B. F. Keith's Theatre, Ottawa, during the week of April 15 when the collections were taken up by bare-legged beauties of Joe Niemeyer's Revue which was the current vaudeville attraction. The film feature was "Jazz Age."

Manager Sam Binder of the Empress Theatre, Edmonton, Alberta, has secured a further jump in business by the addition of an Edmonton-made news reel to the regular bill and by staging a movie baby contest.

Fire practically destroyed the Goldfields Theatre in Timmins, one of the picturesque mining towns of Northern Ontario, the loss being $40,000. The front section of the theatre was saved after a six-hour fight and the projection room with its films was undamaged. The theatre was one of the finest buildings in the North Country. It was built three years ago.

Negotiations by Famous Players Canadian Corp., Toronto, for the acquisition of Keith and Albee theatres in Ottawa, Montreal, St. John and elsewhere in Canada have reached the stage where N. L. Nathanson, representing Famous Players, and Joseph Plunkett of R.K.O., New York, held an important conference in Toronto, with a tour of inspection of several of the theatres in question.

Hon. G. Howard Ferguson, Premier of Ontario, refused permission to the trustees of Canadian International Films, Limited, Toronto to make use of the Ontario Government studio at Trenton, Ontario, for the purpose of revamping the highly-criticised feature "Carry On, Sergeant," the picture having been produced there in two years time at a cost of $500,000.

As a result, the feature is to be sold to the highest bidder and the company wound up. Capt. Bruce Bairnsfather was the director. It was promised that "Carry On, Sergeant" would be Canada's "Big Parade."

Manager James Adams of Loew's Theatre, Montreal, Quebec, hesitated before booking "Dawn," the much-discussed British production, but what eventually happened was that the feature drew the largest gross of any picture in Montreal during the week of February 9. Loew's did even better than the wired houses.

The business section of the mining town of Rossland, B. C., was hit by a disastrous fire on March 5. With fire hydrants frozen, building after building was destroyed, including the local moving picture theatre.

The co-ordination of Vitaphone presentation with the playing of the overture by the concert orchestra of the theatre has been carried out effectively by Manager Harry Dahn of the Capitol Theatre, one of the greatest cinemas in Montral. This was done with the playing of "I Pagliacci" by the orchestra, the "solo" being produced simultaneously through the use of a Victor record by John McCormick, whose voice blended perfectly with the orchestra. The effect was both a surprise and a delight to the audiences. Incidentally, the feat was attempted after careful rehearsing and the arrangement was carried out without a hitch.

P. J. Nolan, proprietor of three theatres in Ottawa, Ontario, figured in the serious railway wreck near Bowmanville, Ontario, on April 6 while making the trip to Toronto but came through uninjured.

Practically all of the chief theatres in Montreal, Quebec, co-operated in the staging of the annual ball of the National Vaudeville Artists Association in the Mount Royal Hotel, Montreal, on April 19, house orchestras and permanent stage attractions providing much talent.

Round About the Studios

Scene from "What Money Can Buy," a Gaumont British production, starring Madeline Carroll.

WYNDHAM STANDING, who has appeared in several outstanding productions in America, has returned to England and is appearing in British International Pictures which are being imported by World Wide Pictures. Mr. Standing was among the first Englishmen to appear on the screen in America.

George Archainbaud, recently signed by Columbia Pictures to direct a series of four talking specials has been assigned "The College Coquette," as his first directorial effort for the company. Unlike the usual run of talking pictures, which confine their action to indoor sets, this fast moving comedy of co-ed life will give especial prominence to outdoor sound sequences of campus activities and undergraduate sports.

Word is received from London that Lya de Putti is having a grand time in the English capital where she is making "The Informer," a talking picture, for British International for distribution in America through World Wide Pictures. And she is hob-nobbing with royalty, too, since Prince George had lunch with her a few weeks ago when he visited the Elstree studios.

Oscar Hanson, General Sales Manager of Tiffany-Stahl, who has just returned from a trip to Canada and the middle west, is again hittingthe trail in the interests of Tiffany-Stahl pictures and was in Chicago and St. Louis where he has been rapidly closing contracts on "Molly and Me," the first talking and singing picture starring Belle Bennett.

For several years Allen Ray and Walter Miller were teamed together in Pathe serials. After a year or more of professional separation they are reunited in a new Pathe serial, "The Black Book." Each has been in vaudeville since their last Pathe Serial together, Miller concluding his engagement shortly before the first of the year to take the male lead in "Queen of the North Woods," a Pathe serial recently finished.

Anita Page, Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer's popular young star, and her father.

ANNA MAY WONG, the little Chinese American actress, who has made such a hit in "Piccadilly," never even visited China. She was born of Chinese parents in Los Angeles and was educated there. She first came into prominence in "The Thief of Bagdad."

Lupino Lane Talking Comedies are now ready for the market. They are the latest addition to Educational's already large line-up of talking comedies, which now include Mack Sennett, Lloyd Hamilton, Jack White and Coronet Talking Comedies, in addition to the Lane series.

Exit Snookums and enter Sunny Jim. When Universal signed up Lawrence McKeen, four-year-old star, it didn't acquire his screen name of Snookums. So he is starting out on a new career under the direction of Gus Meins in two-reel talking comedies as Sunny Jim.

Maurice Elvey will commence on the production of the Gaumont British film of Pemberton Billing's play "High Treason" at Shepherd's Bush next week. Both a silent and a talkie film will be done and separate and distinct scripts have been prepared for the respective versions. The three principal roles are to be played by Jameson Thomas, Benita Hume and Humberston Wright.

Robert Castle, Viennese actor-author, will make his American screen debut in "Marianne," Marion Davies' new Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer starring picture. Robert Z. Leonard is directing this all-talking and singing film, which has a French background. Oscar Shaw and Cliff Edwards, musical comedy stars, have featured parts in the production.

Leo McCarey has been signed by Pathe to direct "Joe College," in which Eddie Quillan, Sally O'Neill and Jeanette Loff will be featured. McCarey for the past two years has been supervising director of the Hal Roach comedies, and is generally credited with the success of Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy.

"Lucky Boy," that's George Jessel, in Tiffany-Stahl's box-office record breaker.

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